

## **Assembly Bill No. 1897**

### **CHAPTER 489**

An act to add Section 4980.40.5 to the Business and Professions Code, relating to marriage and family therapists.

[Approved by Governor September 28, 2008. Filed with  
Secretary of State September 28, 2008.]

#### **LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

AB 1897, Emmerson. Marriage and family therapists: licensure.

Existing law provides for the licensure, registration, and regulation of marriage and family therapists and marriage and family therapist interns by the Board of Behavioral Sciences. Existing law requires applicants for a license or registration to meet certain qualifications, including, but not limited to, the possession of a doctor's or master's degree in a subject related to marriage and family obtained from an educational institution accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, or approved by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education or the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Education, as specified. By operation of law, the Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education became inoperative on July 1, 2007.

This bill would specify that a doctor's or master's degree approved by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education as of June 30, 2007, shall be considered by the board to meet the specified licensure and registration requirements if the degree is conferred on or before July 1, 2010. The bill would also require the board to accept certain doctor's or master's degrees as equivalent degrees if those degrees are conferred by educational institutions accredited by specified associations. The bill would make these provisions inoperative on the date that legislation enacted in the 2007–08 Regular Session reestablishing the Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education Reform Act of 1989 or a successor act and the Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education or a successor agency becomes operative.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 4980.40.5 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

4980.40.5. (a) A doctor's or master's degree in marriage, family, and child counseling, marital and family therapy, psychology, clinical psychology, counseling psychology, or counseling with an emphasis in either marriage, family, and child counseling, or marriage and family therapy,

obtained from a school, college, or university approved by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education as of June 30, 2007, shall be considered by the board to meet the requirements necessary for licensure as a marriage and family therapist and for registration as a marriage and family therapist intern provided that the degree is conferred on or before July 1, 2010.

(b) As an alternative to meeting the qualifications specified in subdivision (a) of Section 4980.40, the board shall accept as equivalent degrees those doctor's or master's degrees that otherwise meet the requirements of this chapter and are conferred by educational institutions accredited by any of the following associations:

- (1) Northwest Association of Secondary and Higher Schools.
- (2) Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.
- (3) New England Association of Schools and Colleges.
- (4) North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.
- (5) Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

(c) If legislation enacted in the 2007–08 Regular Session reestablishes the Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education Reform Act of 1989 (Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 94700) of Part 59 of Division 10 of Title 3 of the Education Code) or a successor act and the Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education or a successor agency, this section shall become inoperative on the date that legislation becomes operative. The board shall post notice on its Internet Web site if the conditions described in this subdivision have been satisfied.